



Traffic Services Section Michigan State Police Field Update #2

Providing Traffic Related Information and Services to Michigan Law Enforcement

Section Phone (517) 336-6171

www.michigan.gov/msp-traffic

Fax (517) 336-6259

Winter Enforcement Tips

Plow truck lights

The Traffic Services Section (TSS) has received numerous calls from the field inquiring about the use of flashing, oscillating, or rotating overhead lights in use by some private snow plow operators. While a private plow vehicle may be equipped with an amber light pursuant to [MCL 257.698\(5\)\(f\)](#), there is no legal authority for private plow operators to use these lights while traveling on the road. A private plow operator may use a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light for safety only while on private property, or when incidentally entering a street during active plowing. Violation is a 90-day/\$100 misdemeanor. Plow vehicles belonging to the Michigan Department of Transportation, a county road commission, or a municipality are allowed to use these lights while on the highway pursuant to [MCL 257.698\(5\)\(d\)](#).

Depositing snow in the street

Pursuant to [MCL 257.677a\(4\)](#), it is a 90-day/\$100 misdemeanor to "deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any [roadway](#) or [highway](#)." By definition, a highway or street is "the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel" and includes the roadway, shoulders, ditch slopes, and sidewalks.

As always, common sense and good judgement should be used when taking enforcement action.

RADAR and LIDAR Information

The Traffic Services Section maintains the website for the [Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force](#) (MSMTF). There are several helpful links on the MSMTF website, including information on current RADAR/LIDAR [equipment on state contract](#), upcoming RADAR/LIDAR [instructor training](#), and RADAR/LIDAR equipment [replacement certificates](#). Additional [information](#) on instrument certification and operator qualification is also available on the TSS website.

Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit Update

All department [Traffic Crash Reconstructionists](#) are now equipped with Crash Data Retrieval System (CDR) Kits with the ability to download information from nearly all GM vehicles from 1996 to present and many Ford vehicles from 2001 to present. Information available depends on the year and model of the vehicle. Additional [information](#) on other services provided by the unit is available on the TSS website.

The vacant position at First District has been filled. Spl/Tpr. Allan Avery has been selected as the new First District Traffic Crash Reconstructionist effective January 16, 2005, and will receive his advanced training in February and March.

[Alcohol Enforcement Unit](#)
[Grant Administration Unit](#)
[Section Commander](#)
[Speed Measurement Unit](#)

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[Crash Reconstruction Unit](#)
[Field Support Unit](#)
[Section Technician](#)
[Vehicle Code Unit](#)

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